OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

CENDEP NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

Welcome to the Newsletter:

Welcome to this issue of the CENDEP newsletter where you can read more about our research and teaching. You can meet our students and read about the field trip undertaken by our DEP students in Ethiopia; use of art as a form of resilience via the example of the Sketch Club in Quetta, Pakistan; and the value of fieldwork on the MA DEP course.

The 18th Oxford Human Rights Festival is taking place at Oxford Brookes from 14th March 2020 and the theme this year is 'resilience'. Topics range from mental health in individuals to the strength of communities and networks. The festival is a generous space for all: we aim to inform about human rights by placing injustices and rights violations on the agenda. We hope the festival can inspire you to join us and the groups involved to ensure equal rights for all. The festival, which is student-led, is organised by CENDEP. Students and staff from CENDEP collaborate with students and staff across the university in Architecture, Business, Film, Law and Marketing departments under the coordination of CENDEP's El Laskar. The festival is one example of how CENDEP's work is a meeting point between academia, practice and public debate.

We are currently working with CARE UK International on a Global Challenges Research Funded "translations project" where the aim is to translate academic knowledge into practical work. Our ongoing collaboration with the Centre for Lebanese Studies is also presented through an international workshop we are organising here in April.

Cathrine Brun,
CENDEP Director

What's new at CENDEP?

- Latest news from MA HAP and MA DEP
- Student Profile: Basma Taysir El Doukhi (MA DEP)
- Field trip to Ethiopia
- The value of DEP field trips
- Workshop update: Navigating from education to employment in crisis and uncertainty
- Shelter Self-recovery
- The 18th Oxford Human Rights Festival 2020 update
- Art as a form of Resilience: The Sketch Club (Quetta, Pakistan)
- Other news and events

The joint class of CENDEP and Arba Minch students during the field trip in Ethiopia

Write for CENDEP blog and newsletter

Email your contributions to **cendep@brookes.ac.uk**
State the year you were studying at CENDEP and the course you have completed.
Feel free to write to us in case you would like to first discuss a relevant topic for publication.

Art as a form of resilience: The Sketch Club (Quetta, Pakistan)

In turbulent environments like that of my hometown Quetta, part of my PhD research aim was to investigate how the Hazara community responds to the different forms of stigmatisation, residing in two areas of Hazara Town and Marriabad. During my fieldwork, most of the young participants mentioned how the 'Sketch Club' had been their saviour when the conditions in Quetta were turbulent to such an extent that the targeted killings of the Hazara community were either one or two in a day or in a week or in a month. Syed Fazil Mousavi, Founder of the Sketch Club encapsulates how art has been the best form of resilience for the youth:

My students have the power and the ability to convert their feelings and emotions onto the canvas. The best option we have is to begin the process of catharsis within ourselves and the best way for catharsis is to paint, to do poetry, write essays, fictions and novels. This allows for the process of catharsis to continue, the work we do also becomes part of our history and we get to release the pain and suffering we are feeling. This is the best form of resilience.

This led to inviting Mr Mousavi to participate in the upcoming Oxford Human Rights Festival 2020, celebrating its 18th successive year with a focus on RESILIENCE.

Fatima Hashmi
PhD Student, CENDEP

18th Oxford Human Rights Festival 2020 launch

The Lord Mayor of Oxford will launch the annual 18th Oxford Human Rights Festival on the **13 March at 5pm at the Glass Tank** at the Headington Campus. This year's theme is resilience and we welcome an evening of music, art and stories from Oxford and beyond.

The launch invites us to question and discuss what resilience is, how it can be recognised in the world around us and how we can find pathways to support and strengthen ourselves and the organisations that we work alongside.

On the day, we will hear from Zahra, Director of the Young Women's Music Project in Oxford; an introduction to resilience and beyond by Dr Sana Murrani, University of Plymouth; the role of music and resilience; Mr Fazil Mousavi from Quetta Pakistan, founder of the Sketch Club, who works with the Hazara community; and the story of Rohingya women through a unique project called Testimony Tailors by Shafiur Rahman, a documentary maker and photographer from the UK.

DUE TO EXCEPTIONAL CONDITIONS, THE EVENTS HAVE NOW EITHER BEEN CANCELLED OR MOVED TO ONLINE VERSION. CHECK WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS
www.oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net

News from MA HAP

Linking the fields of conflict transformation and humanitarian action is the challenging and core theme of the MA in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding. Delivered strictly online, the masters aims, amongst other things, to create a community of practice between the learners and the team of lecturers.

Over the last 4 years, more than 50 practitioners, coming from the five continents and deployed in different conflict or turbulent environments, have exchanged their experiences, learnings and challenges between each other during the different interactive activities of the programme on the online platforms. Subjects were linked to protection, conflict analysis, resilience, stabilisation and recovery or culture sensitivity. Students explained their daily practices in South Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Venezuela, and with migrants' communities in the UK and Canada.

Contact person: **Brigitte Piquard**
bpiquard@brookes.ac.uk

News from MA DEP

The MA DEP consistently attracts students from different countries and has an international reputation for being one of the first courses in international development and humanitarian/emergency practices in the UK and Europe. We are proud of our alumni working in different country contexts and contributing to critical thinking and creative practices within the international development and emergency responses.

The MA DEP external examiner professor Giorgia Dona commended the programme for its high standards, stating: '*the inclusion of case studies, the professional expertise of staff and the discussion of practice are in place to enable students to gain employment in the sector. They contribute very well to the employability of graduates from the programme. The learning environment (field trips and participation in the activities) is very stimulating for students. Opportunities are available for students to engage in activities that benefit their personal and professional development*'.

Contact person: **Supriya Akerkar**
sakerkar@brookes.ac.uk

Shelter Self-recovery

CENDEP has been awarded an 18-month grant to research humanitarian shelter, working closely with partners from operational agencies: CARE International UK, CRS, CRAterre and Habitat for Humanity. The Self-recovery from Humanitarian Crisis project is funded by a GCRF Global Research Translations Award and focuses on 'self-recovery' – the inevitable reality for the majority of people affected by conflict and disaster.

Most families and communities rebuild using their own resources with little or no support from outside agencies. In the context of ever-increasing need for humanitarian assistance and grave constraints on funding, there is an imperative to understand how best to improve support for this self-recovery process. For further information on research activities, visit **https://self-recovery.org**

Meet a Student:

Basma Taysir El Doukhi, MA DEP

The personal stories really matter. The DEP master challenged my ideas, norms, status quo, and most importantly supported me to be very critical and free in terms of having safe space to reflect on my personal experience and field practices in order to build on them for the future. As a professional who has long years of field humanitarian and development experiences in conflict zone areas, I was able to question very deeply, in a very transparent and straight-forward way, a lot of concepts and practices that I used in my support of and work with refugees and asylum seekers in Lebanon and Syria. I was also able to reflect on my personal story as a refugee supporting refugees and my commitment to human rights and community development.

Looking through the lens of an insider as a professional and as an outsider as a student who is learning new things, I was able to keep expanding my theoretical knowledge of things, exploring advanced and new topics and researches, contributing to the human rights activities and festival in my university, and most importantly, sharing my field experiences and lessons learned with my classmates. This helps in contributing a lot to the academic structure of the course and the students' learning journeys as I received very positive feedbacks about my contributions to the course from my classmates and course lecturers. Most of the times, I feel that I am responsible to be the voice of the voiceless in my class by reflecting about how resilient and strong the people that I work with are, and by talking about it in our course modules. It is a very rewarding and learning opportunity on both personal and professional levels, and I am very grateful that I chose this course to complement my extensive field experiences. This academic experience will be remembered throughout my whole life.

The value of fieldwork opportunities on the DEP course

Emboldened by my DEP field trip to Lebanon in April 2019, I returned to Saida independently in July to collect data for my dissertation. I used qualitative techniques to investigate the reasons for and implications of the fact that less than 3% of secondary age refugees are in school. I wanted to find out how agency – refugees' capacities to act - is influenced by education. Facilitated and interpreted by Neamat, whom I'd met on the previous trip, I interviewed twenty Syrian and Palestinian 15-25-year-olds. I found that education indeed affects resilience and can shape aspirations – it changes what is possible, and what is believed to be possible. However, in order to access and persist in education, inner strength is needed and this is influenced by social capital. 'Cheerleaders', committed personal supporters, were a significant source of strength for some, and boosted resilience and ability to navigate the future. However, those who lacked resilience and social capital risked losing hope and falling out of education altogether.

Sue Webb (*CENDEP alumni (MA DEP) and Research Assistant*)

DEP students support Ethiopia legal aid

Students from the DEP Masters programme travelled to southern Ethiopia in January to study the legal aid provision offered by Arba Minch University. The students from Oxford Brookes worked in close partnership with students on Arba Minch Law School's human rights Masters programme.

Field trip leaders Dr Richard Carver and Dr Lisa Handley from CENDEP delivered a module on socio-legal research methods to a combined class of the Ethiopian and Brookes students. The students' practical exercise was to conduct a pilot capacity assessment of the legal aid programme. They conducted interviews with legal aid providers, clients, and members of the public, as well as visiting the local prison and a police detention centre.

The students' findings were incorporated into a funding proposal that may lead to a significant expansion of legal aid in the province over the coming years. There is, as yet, no agreed national framework for free legal assistance to poor and disadvantaged Ethiopians, who depend on university law school clinics and non-governmental organizations.

Richard Carver
Senior Lecturer

Students interview legal aid providers during field trip to Ethiopia

Our DEP students have also been writing about the field trip in Ethiopia. Go to the CENDEP blog to read more about their experiences.

Workshop: Navigating from education to employment in crisis and uncertainty

THE WORKSHOP IS NOW CANCELLED DUE TO EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. WE WILL UPDATE ON FUTURE DATES IN DUE COURSE.

Young people's position in the labour market is increasingly precarious and uncertainty is an ever-present dimension for young people living in protracted displacement and other crisis settings. Over the last decade, much progress has been made in developing frameworks to provide education in crisis. However, there is currently limited research examining the relationship between education and employment prospects in such contexts.

As part of the ESRC / GCRF and IDRC funded research programme "From education to employment. Trajectories for young people in Lebanon and Jordan in the context of protracted displacement", CENDEP, in collaboration with the Centre for Lebanese Studies (CLS), is hosting an international workshop responding to the need for greater insight into young people's trajectories from education to employment in crisis settings from the **28th – 29th April 2020**. Preliminary findings from the research programme will be presented, and we invite researchers and policy makers working in other contexts of uncertainty to join us to share insights, analytical approaches, and empirical realities.

We will be questioning education and employment strategies among young people and their families in the context of crisis; intersectionality and its workings in young people's trajectories, focusing particularly on legal status, gender, disability, class and other social positions; the relevance of education for employment in the context of protracted displacement; and how young people are categorized and conceptualised, and its implications for policy and practice.

To find out more:
https://www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/events/navigating-from-education-to-employment-in-crisis-and-uncertainty/

Other news and events:

Admissions for the MA DEP course for 2020-21 are now open. Please contact **Caroline Tindale** at ctindale@brookes.ac.uk for further information.

Simon Fisher has a new book '**Working with Conflict 2: Skills and Strategies for Action**' coming out in August 2020 by Fisher S, Matovic V and Walker B (Zed Books). The book will be a sequel to the previous book 'Working with Conflict: Skills and Strategies for Change' by Fisher et al (Zed Books, 2000).

SINCE THE FIRST PRINT RUN OF THE MARCH 2020 CENDEP NEWSLETTER, DUE TO EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, 'Navigating from education to employment in crisis and uncertainty' **workshop** to be held in April 2020 **IS NOW CANCELLED** and **Oxford Human Rights Festival 2020** events are **CANCELLED OR MOVED TO ONLINE VERSION.**

Meet our staff

- Supriya Akerkar, *Senior Lecturer and DEP Programme Coordinator*
- Jeni Burnell, *Research Associate*
- Cathrine Brun, *CENDEP Director*
- Richard Carver, *Senior Lecturer*
- Ian Davis, *Visiting Professor*
- Anita H Fabos, *Associate Lecturer*
- Maria Faraone, *Senior Lecturer*
- Simon Fisher, *Associate Lecturer*
- Bill Flinn, *Associate Lecturer*
- Nabeel Hamdi, *Emeritus Professor*
- Lisa Handley, *Visiting Research Academic*
- Louise Harris, *Visiting Research Academic*
- Zoe Jordan, *Associate Lecturer*
- Melissa Kinnear, *Associate Lecturer*
- Paul Knox-Clarke, *Associate Lecturer*
- Elizabeth Laskar, *OxHRF Co-ordinator*
- Anna Lindley, *Visiting Fellow*
- Aparna Maladkar, *Research Assistant*
- Charles Parrack, *Subject Coordinator Shelter after Disaster*
- Brigitte Piquard, *Reader in Humanitarian Action and Conflict*
- Hugo Slim, *Visiting Professor*
- Lucy Heaven Taylor, *Associate Lecturer*
- Caroline Tindale, *Programme Administrator*
- Sue Webb, *Research Assistant*
- Hala Caroline Abou Zaki, *Postdoctoral Researcher*

Meet our PhD students

- Elisa Ferrato
- Fatima Hashmi
- Zoe Jordan
- Grace Khawam
- Salem Al Qudwa
- Aleyda Valdes

Read our CENDEP Blog

Find information and insights about our research on development and emergency practice, teaching activities and latest news by CENDEP students, staff and associates, at **http://cendep.blogspot.co.uk/**

Contact us

cendep

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